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*A*  
*Guide*  
*to*



*Hunting*  
*&*  
*Fishing*  
**IN**  
**MONTANA**

**MONTANA**  
**Fish and Game Department**  
**1959-1960**

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**Information-Education**  
**Division**





Montana State Library



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## *Montana-home of fish and game*

Whether you thrill to the whirr of a ruffed grouse breaking from a willow clump, the roar of a grizzly bear brought to bay, or a tussle with a tackle-busting rainbow, Montana has something to offer. With a variety of fish and game that is tops, the sportsman can find almost anything that his heart desires. But there is more than wildlife alone to attract the outdoorsman.

Scenery is unequalled for breathtaking beauty, streams are clear and pure, and from the vast prairies of eastern Montana to the rugged peaks of the western section, one can roam with unbelievable freedom.

This state has an area of 147,138 square miles. The far eastern portion is prairie and badlands and here are found antelope, deer, sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse and warm water fishes. This is also an area of fossil deposits, and the picturesque badlands form an interesting background for the hunter or fisherman.

In western Montana, rugged snow-capped peaks, rolling hills and broad valleys are the homes of elk, moose, white-tailed and mule deer, mountain goats and sheep, black and grizzly bear, and the many species of trout, and other cold-water fishes.

Now let's consider where you can go to find that special kind of hunting or fishing. But remember there are many factors that will influence your trip. You may or may not be lucky, but getting a limit of fish or game isn't the really important thing. It's getting out that counts — breathing that fresh mountain air and smelling coffee and bacon on the crisp morning breeze — man, that's living!

# Montana's Wildlife

One of the Treasure State's greatest treasures is its wealth of wild-life. From the eastern prairies and badlands (where pronghorn antelope and deer are found in surprising numbers) to the rugged terrain of western Montana (home of the mountain dwelling animals) and in the crystal waters pouring out of the Rocky Mountains to destinations in the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico—this wealth is intended for the enjoyment of all.

In Montana, the observant traveler, sportsman and camera enthusiast will see . . .

**Big Game . . .**

Moose, Elk, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Antelope, Mountain Sheep, Mountain Goats, Grizzly Bear, Black Bear, Bison and occasionally a Caribou.

**Game Birds . . .**

Sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, Franklin's grouse, Blue grouse, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasants, Hungarian partridge, Chukar partridge, wild turkey, and an occasional Ptarmigan.

**Game Fish . . .**

Grayling, native black-spotted cutthroat, rainbow trout, golden trout, Dolly Varden (bull trout), brown trout (Loch Leven), eastern brook, mackinaw (lake trout), kokanee (sockeye salmon), silver salmon, whitefish, sandpike (sauger), walleye pike, northern pike, bass, perch, blue gill, crappie, catfish, bullheads.

**Fur-Bearing Animals . . .**

Beaver, mink and muskrat, which may be trapped with proper licenses and at certain times of the year. In addition, fisher are found in the state but are protected, while marten and Canada lynx are trapped during years of abundance.

**Predatory Animals . . .**

Coyote, wolf, wolverine, mountain lion, bobcat, weasel, skunk.

**SUMMARY OF TYPES OF LICENSES AND FEES**

Class A Resident Bird and Fish.....	\$ 3.00
Class A-1 Resident Big Game (Must be holder of the above).....	3.00
Class B Non-Resident Fishing License (entire season).....	10.00
Class B-3 Non-Resident 6-day Limited Fishing License.....	3.00
Class B-4 Non-Resident Game Bird License.....	25.00
Class B-2 Non-Resident Big Game and Fishing License.....	100.00
Class A-2 Bow and Arrow Permit (Special Season).....	2.00

**Special Permits: (Limited Numbers)**

Moose Permit .....	25.00
Mountain Sheep .....	15.00
Mountain Goat .....	5.00
Non-Resident Antelope .....	20.00
Non-Resident Deer .....	20.00
Turkey Permit .....	2.00



If You Want to Go . . .

## *Hunting, Fishing, or Boating*

**Children** under 15 years of age are not required to have a license to fish or hunt game birds, (excepting wild turkeys). However, **all persons must have a big game license to hunt big game.** Only persons 12 years and over may obtain a big game license.

**No big game hunting license shall be issued** to any resident under the age of 18 years unless he presents to the license agent evidence that he has held a big game license issued by this state in a prior year, or a certificate of competency issued by the Montana Fish and Game Department. Any resident person under 15 years of age must present a certificate of competency even if he has held a Montana hunting license in prior years. This certificate is not required for non-residents.

**Military Personnel** who are assigned to duty in Montana and their spouses may apply for resident licenses after a period of 30 days and upon presentation of assignment orders from the proper Unit Commander.

**All Aliens** may purchase non-resident licenses.

**Hunting and Fishing Licenses May Be Purchased** at nearly every town in the state. They are usually on sale at sporting goods or hardware stores. They may also be purchased directly from the Montana Fish and Game Department in Helena, either by mail or in person.

**Persons applying for any license** by mail, wire or telephone, must include in the application: Full name, street and number, city and state, occupation, age, height, color of eyes, color of hair, and weight.

**No License is Required to Fish** in either Yellowstone or Glacier National Park. Hunting is not allowed in National Parks.

**Resident citizens of Montana 70 years or older** need not purchase a game bird and fishing license to hunt game birds (excepting a \$2.00 permit needed for wild turkey) or to fish in Montana. They are however, still required to purchase a Federal duck stamp if they wish to hunt waterfowl and a big game license to hunt big game.

**Please refer** to the current year's hunting and fishing regulations for the bag limits, seasons, and other information.

**Non-Resident Big Game License (Class B-2):** This license permits the holder to take one or more deer, one elk, and one bear (either grizzly or black bear). An exchange coupon is attached which entitles the holder to enter into the antelope drawing at no extra cost. This license also permits the non-resident to apply for permits on moose, mountain sheep, mountain goats and buffalo by including required fees.

**Non-Resident Big Game and Fishing Required for the Above.....\$100.00**

**Montana's general big game hunting season** opens on October 15 if that date falls on Sunday; otherwise, the season opens on the first Sunday following October 15. The season lasts 30 or more days. In addition, other seasons open as early as September 15 and last until February 28 in some areas.

**Maps**—Hunting maps showing open areas of the state, seasons, dates and other information and regulations are available free of charge after July 1 each year. These may be obtained by writing:

Montana Fish & Game Department  
Helena, Montana

**Special Permit Hunting**—For holders of special permits only.

— Cost of Permit —

**Note**—Amounts listed below are in addition to the regular big game license fee. In the event that an applicant is unsuccessful in obtaining a special permit, the special permit fee is refunded. However, state law prohibits the refund of the regular big game license.

Moose .....	\$25.00	Mountain Goat .....	\$5.00
Mountain Sheep .....			\$15.00

**How to Apply for a Special Permit . . .**

Because only a limited number of the above animals may be hunted, permits to hunt moose, mountain sheep and mountain goats are allocated through machine drawings. Holders of moose or mountain sheep permits may not obtain another permit in an ~~un~~limited area for a 10-year period.

A limited number of non-resident \$20 deer and \$20 antelope permits may be allocated in specified areas. Such permits are issued only if a surplus of permits remain after general drawings have been held. These do not require purchase of the regular big game license. \$20.00 antelope permits must be obtained from the Helena office and request for antelope should be submitted prior to July 31st. \$20.00 deer permits for limited areas must also be obtained from the Helena office. Only one \$20.00 antelope and/or deer permit may be issued to an individual during a single season, and only one animal is allowed on each permit.

To obtain applications for special permits, interested persons are invited to write the Montana Fish and Game Department at Helena after May 30. Deadline for filing applications is July 31, and drawings are held about the middle of August.

Maps showing areas, number of permits to be issued, seasons and other information will be mailed with application blanks.

**Bow and Arrow Hunting (Special Season) . . .**

Bow and Arrow Permit (Special Season).....	\$2.00
(The above fee is in addition to the amounts charged for the regular big game license).	

The Montana Fish and Game Commission is authorized to designate an Archer's deer, elk, or antelope season which is opened prior to the opening of the general or regular big game season in specified areas of the state.

Regulations governing this type of hunting are included in the hunters map, available in July.



During the Archery season, the use of firearms to aid or assist any person in the hunting or killing of any game animal or bird is strictly prohibited.

Archers must use a non-mechanical bow of not less than 40-pound pull, capable of projecting an arrow 150 yards. The arrow cannot be less than 24 inches in length and must have a steel cutting head not less than one inch in width.

The use of any crossbow or mechanical bow to hunt or kill game animals and birds is prohibited at all times.

Archers may use or continue to use the bow and arrow for hunting during any open season on game animals if they possess a valid big game license and wish to compete with the weapons used by other big game hunters.

**Predatory Animals** (these include mountain lion, bobcat, wolf, coyote, weasel, skunk and wolverine.)

The above animals may be hunted by anyone at any time of the year. No license is required and there is no restriction on numbers which may be taken.

**Small Game Animals** (these include rabbits, hares, raccoon, badger, porcupine, prairie dogs, ground squirrels, gophers, etc.)

The above small game animals may be hunted by anyone at any time of the year. No license is required and there are no restrictions on numbers which may be taken.

#### **Upland Game Birds . . .**

The prairie grouse species found in Montana include **Sharp-tailed Grouse** and **Sage Grouse**. The mountain grouse species of the state include **Blue Grouse**, **Franklin's Grouse** (sometimes called **Fool Hen**) and **Ruffed Grouse**.

**Seasons and Bag limits** on these birds are usually established by the Montana Fish and Game Commission in August and regulations vary from year to year, depending upon recommendations of researchers in the field. The dates of the upland game bird season are usually opened in mid-September to mid-October.

In addition, game bird hunters may hunt **Ring-Necked Pheasant**, **Chukar Partridge**, **Hungarian Partridge**, and **Wild Turkeys** under special permit. Seasons and bag limits on these species are usually set in September, and the opening date is usually late in October.

#### **Migratory Waterfowl . . .**

Regulations governing migratory waterfowl are established by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service although each state is allowed to select its own season dates within certain time limitations set up by the federal government.

Information on Montana's migratory waterfowl season may be obtained after August 15 by writing the Montana Fish and Game Department in Helena. The waterfowl season usually opens in October and closes some time before the end of the year.



## BOATING

**Boats driven by machinery of more than 10 horsepower** must be registered and numbered. Visiting boats require no registration for a period of 90 days, providing the craft is already properly registered and numerically numbered by the Coast Guard or another state.

Regulations require all boats to carry Coast Guard approved life-preservers. **All children 12 years or younger must WEAR life preservers while the boat is in motion.**

Running lights are required during hours of darkness and adequate and sufficient fire extinguishers must be carried. In addition, an efficient flame arrestor, back fire trap is an additional fire prevention safeguard for inboard motor boats.

Navigation rules of the road are also required to be observed while the boat is in operation on Montana waters. Boating courtesies are reduced to the regulation of prohibiting boats to approach fishermen, swimming areas marked by red and yellow buoys, overloading and overpowering of the craft.

Water skiers are not permitted to engage in that sport during the hours of darkness.

## GAME TAGS AND SHIPPING TAGS

Game Tags are a part of the regular big game license and also all special permits. Montana law requires that these tags be detached from the license after proper completion (hunter's name, address, etc.) and be immediately affixed to the carcass of the game animals for which the tag was issued (i.e. elk, deer, etc.)

**Shipping Tags** must accompany out-of-state shipment of game, birds, fish or furbearers, or any portions thereof. All package contents must be plainly marked. One limit of all species may be shipped with one shipping tag, or shipping tags may be issued separately for those who wish to ship their game, birds, or fish on the days they are bagged. Shipping tags may be obtained from any authorized license dealer in Montana for sixty cents each.





## *Wilderness Areas*

Thirty-six percent or nearly 54,000 square miles of Montana is public land. There are eleven National Forests which comprise over 16,000,000 acres and in which nine wilderness areas have been established to preserve natural conditions in all of their untarnished beauty.

All of Glacier National Park and part of Yellowstone National Park are in Montana.

Twenty state parks and monuments have been established in Montana to preserve historical sites, spectacular natural wonders, and scenery. In addition there are several state and federal refuges and game management areas.

### **Bob Marshall Wilderness — 990,900 Acres**

The Bob Marshall Wilderness area was established by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1940. It now represents a consolidation of the older Pentagon, South Fork and Sun River primitive areas. It is located along the Continental Divide south of Glacier Park and extends down on both sides to include the headwaters of the South and Middle Forks of the Flathead and the Sun River.



Here are found the hearts of the summer range of three major elk herds and some of the finest back country fishing left in the West. Here too, is one of the last strongholds of the black spotted native cutthroat trout, unaffected by artificial introductions.

Unbelievable scenic beauty is highlighted by a vast escarpment known as the Chinese Wall formed by the huge Lewis overthrust, its height averages about a thousand feet and length extends over twenty miles along the Continental Divide with only three passes through which saddle stock can travel.

### **Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness — 145,000 Acres**

This is a rugged section of the Continental Divide along the headwaters of Rock Creek and branches of the Bitterroot and Big Hole Rivers. The region summers an important elk herd, and mountain goat frequent the alpine peaks. Deep mountain lakes here are famous for their fishing.

### **Beartooth Wilderness — 230,000 Acres**

A high glacier-covered plateau-type range, this area includes Granite Peak, the highest point in Montana. Here, also, is the famed Grasshopper Glacier in which hundreds of thousands of grasshoppers were trapped by the glacier's movement and which may now be seen encased in the ice.

The area is located at the headwaters of the Stillwater and Rosebud Rivers and drained to the east by Rock Creek. A multitude of glacier-formed alpine lakes afford spectacular fishing. Mountain goats transplanted by the Fish and Game Department have added an additional big game species to the present elk, moose, deer, mountain sheep and bear.

### **Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness — 291,000 Acres (in Montana)**

Largest of the wilderness areas in the United States when the portion in Idaho is included, this area has a total acreage of 1,873,306 acres. The portion in Montana includes the Bitterroot Range along the Montana-Idaho divide. Steep-walled canyons and high rugged peaks make up a bulk of the terrain.

In these alpine formations are found some of Montana's finest mountain goat range. Elk from the Selway herd drift in and out of the state in this area and offer a sporty type of back country hunting.

Rapidly flowing mountain streams make for some of the best white water fishing in the state.

### **Cabinet Mountains Wild Area — 90,000 Acres**

This region of high peaks lying between the Kootenai and Clark Fork Rivers is in the western portion of Montana. Glacier-formed lakes and mountain streams afford good fishing for the adventurous angler.

Big game, particularly deer, grizzly bear, mountain goats and mountain sheep are found in this area. It is one of the more difficult of these back country regions to traverse. Established trails are few. Thus traveling in its interior represents a real challenge to those who wish to enjoy this truly remote area.

### **Mission Mountains Wild Area — 75,500 Acres**

Spectacular glacial and snow fields above timberline characterize the Mission Wild Area which is located on the east slope of the Mission Range, within the Swan River drainage.

Mountain goats and grizzly bear find this high mountain region particularly to their liking. Fishing is excellent in the streams and mountain lakes.

### **Spanish Peaks Wild Area — 50,000 Acres**

This rugged region attains an elevation of eleven thousand feet in some places. It is located on the Gallatin-Madison Divide at the headwaters of Hellroaring, Spanish and Cascade Creeks. Moose are frequently seen along the stream bottoms and brushy snowslide areas.

Mountain goats have been introduced into this ideal alpine range, and the high mountain lakes and streams provide excellent cold water fishing.

### **Absaroka Wild Area — 64,000 Acres**

Lying just north of Yellowstone National Park in this remote mountainous region. Access is gained by trail through several high passes leading from the headwaters of the Boulder River and also from the Stillwater River past Lake Abundance.

High divides must be crossed to enter this region from the west. These high trails are often blocked by early snow storms in the fall. Because of this, elk hunting has been allowed in this wilderness during mid-September.

Grizzly bear frequent the region, apparently drifting up from Yellowstone Park. This is one of the few areas in Montana where truly wild buffalo are found.

Wilderness-type fishing during the summer months is excellent in several lakes and in the mountain streams.

### **Gates of the Mountains Wild Area — 28,562 Acres**

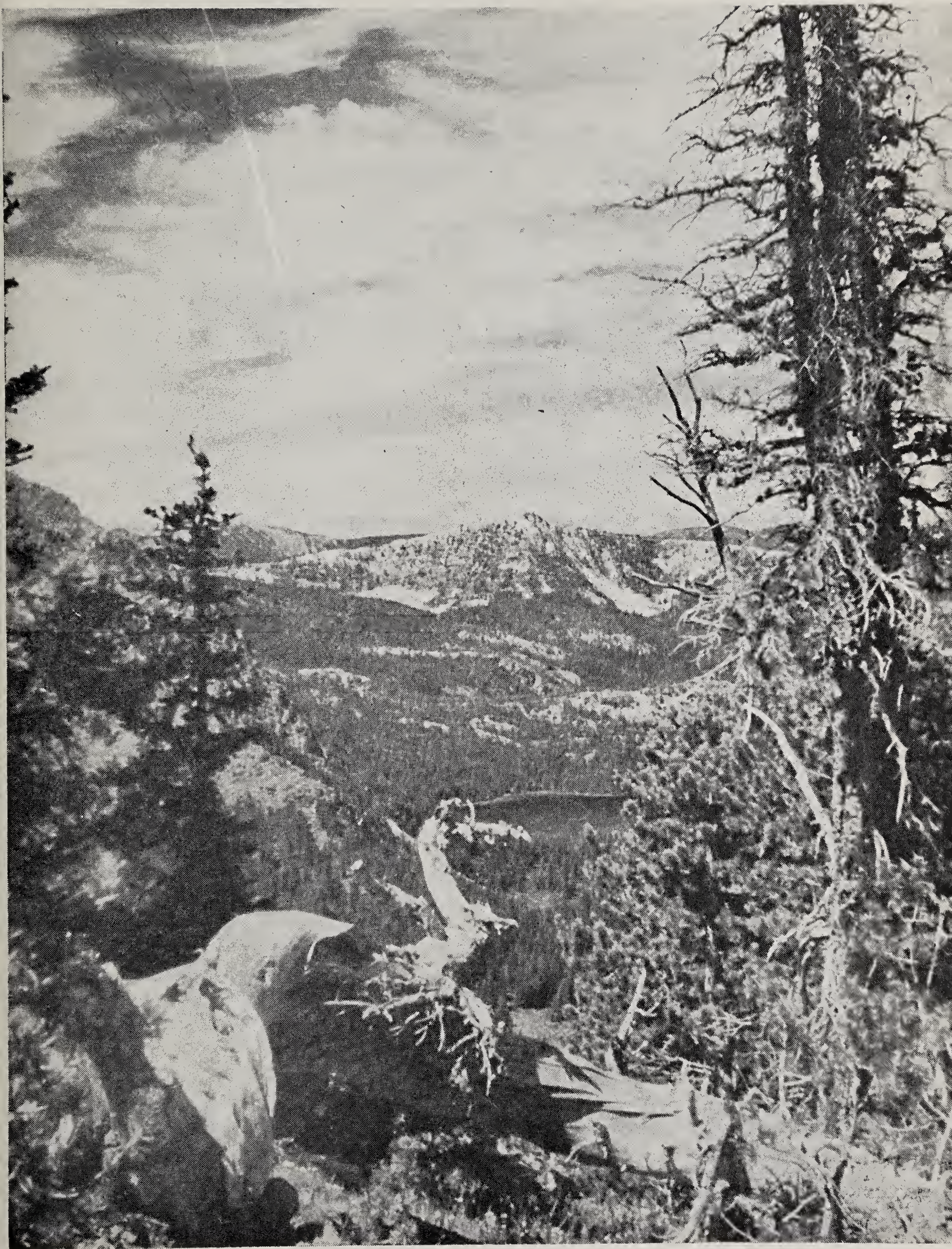
The most recently created wilderness tract, the Gates of the Mountains, was established by the Chief of the Forest Service on March 25, 1948. It includes the picturesque limestone formations that lie immediately adjacent to a canyon waterway, deeply cut by the Missouri.

This region was first described in the Journals of Lewis and Clark. Indian writings on the rock walls present an interesting link with the past.

Mountain goats, established in the region by the Fish and Game Department, are an added attraction for the many visitors.



# Forests





# State and National Forests

(Hunting and fishing is allowed in all of the state and national forests with the regular license.)



## BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible via U. S. 91** — State 1, 41, 34 and 43—Headquarters—Dillon.

**Special Attractions:** Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness Area; Big Hole Battlefield Monument, Sacajawea Memorial Area; Bannack (first territorial capitol of Montana), Tobacco Root, Madison, Gravelly, Snowcrest and Continental Divide Ranges; Madison, Ruby, Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers, many streams and alpine lakes.

**Facilities:** Twenty-six public camp and picnic areas; winter sports areas. Resorts, hotels, and cabins in or near forest. Nearby towns: Dillon, Wisdom, Jackson, Lima, Ennis, Virginia City, Sheridan. Excellent fishing, hunting (deer, elk, moose, goats, antelope.)

## BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible via U. S. 93.** (Part of this forest is in Idaho.) Headquarters — Hamilton.

**Special Attractions:** Bitterroot Valley and Bitterroot Mountains, mountain lakes, hot springs, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area (largest in the nation when the Idaho portion is included); Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness Area; St. Mary's Mission Church and Fort Owen. Excellent lake and stream fishing; big game hunting for bear, elk, deer, mountain goats; pheasants and mountain grouse.

**Facilities:** Ten public camp and picnic areas; winter sports area at Gibbons Pass; resorts, hotels, cabins and dude ranches. Nearby cities: Missoula, Hamilton, Corvallis, Stevensville, Darby.

## CABINET NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible via U. S. 10, 10A:** State 28 — Headquarters — Thompson Falls.

**Special Attractions:** Beautiful Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area, mountain ranges, many alpine and sub-alpine lakes and streams, Clark's Fork River valley, good fishing in streams, lakes and rivers; big game hunting for white-tailed deer, mule-deer, elk and bear. Huckleberries in late summer.

**Facilities:** Fifteen developed public camp and picnic areas. Lookout Pass winter sports area on U. S. Highway 10; some resorts, hotel, cabin and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Thompson Falls, Plains, Hot Springs, Paradise, St. Regis, Noxon, Saltese, Trout Creek.

## CLEARWATER STATE FOREST

**Accessible Via Highway 20** — Headquarters — Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Clearwater River, nearby lakes, ghost towns and camp grounds, fishing, hunting (bear, deer, elk).

**Facilities:** Several camp sites and picnic areas throughout Seeley Lake recreation area.

## COAL CREEK STATE FOREST

**Accessible Via U. S. 2 and 93 to Columbia Falls.** Approximately 25 miles north of Columbia Falls. Headquarters — Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Glacier National Park, North Fork of Flathead River, freshwater streams. Hunting, fishing; hunting includes elk, deer, bear and moose, west side of Glacier National Park.

**Facilities:** Camp grounds and picnic areas. Adjacent towns: Columbia Falls, Whitefish, Kalispell, West Glacier. Numerous dude ranches in the near vicinity.



## CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible via U. S. 10 and 12** (part of this forest is in South Dakota) — Headquarters — Billings.

**Special Attractions:** Magnificent views from Red Lodge-Cooke City highway; snowcapped peaks and high plateaus; Granite Peak, 12,962 feet (highest point in Montana); lakes, glaciers, ice caverns, 900-foot Woodbine Falls, excellent trout fishing, big game hunting of elk, moose, deer, mountain sheep and bear; Beartooth Wilderness Area.

**Facilities:** Thirty public camps and picnic areas; winter sports area at Red Lodge, resorts, hotels, cabins and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Red Lodge, Laurel, Billings.

## DEER LODGE NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible via U. S. 108, 10A, 91 and State 38.** Headquarters — Butte.

**Special Attractions:** Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness Area; Tobacco Root Mountains; Mount Powell; Flint Creek Range; Georgetown and Echo Lakes; numerous alpine lakes. Excellent fishing; big game hunting for deer, elk, mountain goats, bear, moose.

**Facilities:** Twenty-five public camp areas, five winter sports areas, resorts, cabins and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Butte, Deer Lodge, Anaconda, Philipsburg, Whitehall, Boulder.

## FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible via U. S. 2, 93 and State 35 and 37** — Headquarters — Kalispell.

**Special Attractions:** Bob Marshall Wilderness Area with massive Chinese Wall natural rock formation; Mission Mountains; spectacular mountain valleys, glaciers and glacial lakes; Mission Mountains and Pentagon Wild Area; excellent fishing; big game hunting includes deer, elk, moose, bear (both black and grizzly); mountain sheep and mountain goats.

**Facilities:** Twelve public camp and picnic areas, two winter sports areas including Big Mountain Ski Course at Whitefish; resorts, cabins, hotels and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Whitefish, Columbia Falls, Coram, Belton.



## GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible via U. S. 191, 10 and 89** — Headquarters — Bozeman.

**Special Attractions:** Beautiful Gallatin Valley, Crazy Mountains; Spanish Peaks and Absaroka Wilderness Areas; canyons and spectacular waterfalls; excellent fishing in more than 200 lakes and thousands of miles of streams; big game hunting for bear, deer, elk, moose, mountain goats and mountain sheep. Scenic drives through Gallatin Canyon, Boulder Canyon and Yankee Jim Canyon.

**Facilities:** Thirty-eight public camp and picnic areas; three winter sports areas; resorts, hotels, cabins, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Bozeman, West Yellowstone, Livingston, Big Timber and Gardiner.

## HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible Via U. S. 10N and 91** — Headquarters — Helena.

**Special Attractions:** MacDonald Pass over the Continental Divide; Big Belt and Elkhorn mountain ranges; Gates of the Mountains Wild Area; scenic boat trip on Missouri River to Gates of the Mountains. Capitol of Montana at Helena, Montana Historical Museum.

**Facilities:** Five public camp and picnic areas; one winter sports area; resorts, cabins, hotels, and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Helena, Townsend, Lincoln and White Sulphur Springs.



### KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible via U. S. 2** and State 37 (part of this forest lies in Idaho) — Headquarters — Libby.

**Special Attractions:** Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area; Whitefish Range; Yaak River, Kootenai Canyon and Fisher River. Good lake and stream fishing; big game hunting for black bear; white-tailed deer; mule deer, moose, mountain goats and mountain sheep.

**Facilities:** Ten public camp and picnic areas, one winter sports area; hotels, cabins and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Libby, Troy and Eureka; 160 miles from Spokane, Wash.

### LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible Via U. S. 87, 89 and 91** and State 29 — Headquarters — Great Falls.

**Special Attractions:** Bob Marshall Wilderness Area highlighted by spectacular Chinese Wall and Continental Divide; scenic limestone canyons; Little Belt Mountains; good stream and lake fishing; big game hunting for deer, elk, grizzly and black bear, mountain sheep and mountain goats, antelope, Sun River Range, Kings Hill, Judith River, Crystal Lake and Teton River.

**Facilities:** Twenty camp and picnic areas; one winter sports area; good accommodations at hotels, cabins and dude ranches. Nearby towns: Lewistown and Great Falls.

### LINCOLN STATE FOREST

**Accessible on Route 20** — Headquarters — Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Lincoln recreation area. Unimproved camp grounds along Big Blackfoot River. Access to primitive areas. Cabin camps and dude ranches.

### LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

**Accessible via U. S. 10 and 93** and State 20 (part of this forest lies in Idaho) — Headquarters — Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Bob Marshall and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Areas; Mission, Bitterroot and Swan Ranges; Continental Divide; excellent stream and lake fishing; big game hunting for elk, deer. Pack trips and scenic drives around Seeley Lake, Lolo Trail, Lochsa River, Buffalo Park, Rock Creek.

**Facilities:** Twenty-nine public camp grounds, Pattee Canyon picnic area; resorts, dude ranches. Nearby towns: Missoula, Ovando, Superior, Alberton, Drummond.

### STILLWATER STATE FOREST

**Accessible via U. S. 93** — Station 17 miles west of Whitefish. Headquarters — Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Whitefish Lake, Upper Whitefish Lake, Whitefish Divide and Swift Creek, North Fork of Stillwater River, Big Mountain Ski Course at Whitefish. Fishing and big game hunting includes deer, elk, bear (both black and grizzly) and moose.

**Facilities:** Three public camp grounds and picnic areas. Nearby towns: Whitefish, Kalispell, Columbia Falls, Eureka.

### SULA STATE FOREST

**Accessible via Highway 93** — Headquarters — Missoula.

**Special Attractions Nearby:** Bitterroot River, Bitterroot Valley, Bitterroot Mountains, Big Hole Battlefield.

### SWAN RIVER STATE FOREST

**Accessible Via Highway 20** to Seeley Lake turnoff from the south, and Highway 35 to Bigfork from the north. Station on highway at Goat Creek. Headquarters — Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Swan Lake, Swan River Mountains, numerous fresh water streams, Swan River, beautiful forests, fishing, hunting; big game hunting includes deer, elk and bear. scenic drive.

**Facilities:** Two public camp grounds and picnic areas. Nearby towns: Bigfork, Kalispell, several cabin camps at Swan Lake.

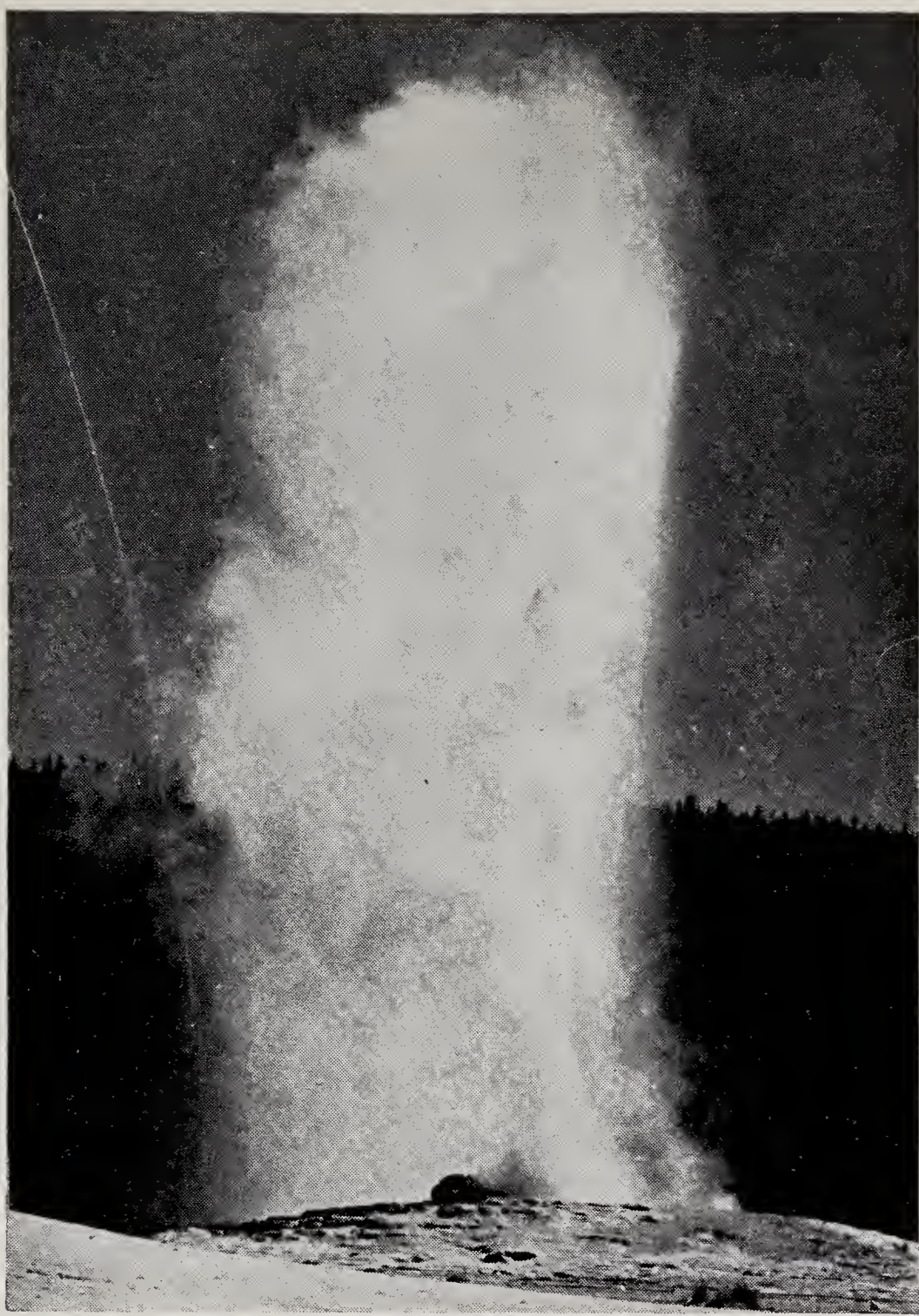
### THOMPSON RIVER STATE FOREST

**Accessible Via Highway 2** and from the North 10-A and from the South. Headquarters — Missoula.

**Special Attractions:** Rugged mountains, beautiful forests, Thompson River, fishing; hunting includes deer, elk and bear. Scenic drive.

**Facilities:** Camp grounds, cabin camps and dude ranches nearby. Towns within driving distance: Kalispell, Libby, Thompson Falls, Paradise, Plains.





## *Parks*

### YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Three of the five entrances to Yellowstone National Park are located in Montana. These are at Cooke City via U. S. Highway 12, at Gardiner via U. S. Highway 89 and at West Yellowstone via U. S. Highway 191. Rail, plane and bus connections are met by Park bus service at the nearby larger cities.

Yellowstone Park's regular season is from June 10 to September 10. Hotels are open June 21 to September 9. Tourist cabins, cafeterias and service stations are usually open from May 10 to October 15, depending on weather conditions. It is advisable to inquire locally about weather and road conditions after October 15.

No fishing license is required within the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park, as this privilege is included in the entrance fee. However, certain restrictions apply to some waters in the Park, and fishermen must make inquiry regarding regulations at the time of entrance.



Among the species of fish found in Yellowstone Park are the rare Montana grayling, cutthroat, rainbow and brown trout or Loch Leven. Yellowstone Lake offers the best of fishing, and boats and tackle may be rented. Visitors will enjoy the unique Fishing Bridge on the Yellowstone River, between Yellowstone Falls and Yellowstone Lake.

Headquarters of Yellowstone National Park are at Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming. **Inquiries may be addressed to:** Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, Mammoth, Wyoming.

**Information about reservations may be obtained from:** The Yellowstone Park Company, Reservations Department, Yellowstone Park, Wyoming.

## GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

All of scenic Glacier National Park is located in Montana and may be reached by motorists by U. S. Highway 2, 89 and 93. Rail, plane and bus service is also provided.

The regular season for Glacier Park usually opens June 15. Hotels and cabin camps are open until about September 10. Roads along the boundary are usually open about May 15 and the Going-to-the-Sun Highway is usually open June 15. The highway across Logan Pass is usually clear until October 15, weather permitting. However, after September 10, it is advisable to inquire locally about road conditions.

No fishing license is required inside the Park boundaries. This privilege is included in the entrance fee. The lakes and streams of the Park support fine populations of cutthroat, eastern brook, rainbow and Dolly Varden or bull trout. The larger mackinaw trout are found in St. Mary's Lake, Crossley and Waterton Lakes. The opening of the fishing season coincides with the State of Montana fishing season and closes October 15. Fishermen are asked to report their catches to the nearest park ranger for inclusion in his creel census.

Headquarters of the Park are at West Glacier. **Inquiries or comments about the Park should be addressed to:** Superintendent, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana.

**For information concerning rates or reservations, write to:** The Glacier Park Company, East Glacier Park, Montana, (between June 1 and October 15 **or** The Glacier Park Company, 1310 Great Northern Building, St. Paul 1, Minnesota, (between October 16 and May 31).



## *Montana State Parks*

**Lewis and Clark Cavern** — Largest limestone cavern in the Pacific Northwest, Lewis and Clark Cavern is located on U. S. Highway 10S, just 47 miles east of Butte. The caverns are easily accessible by car after a short drive of three miles from the highway. Guided tours start May 1 through September 30 and the tour takes about one and one-half hours. A picnic area is provided nearby with tables and fireplaces.



- Flathead Lake State Park** — Adjacent to U. S. Highway 93, this park is 18 miles north of Polson. It is equipped with picnic tables, fireplaces, toilets, and has easy access to the lake. Camping is permitted and trailers will find space available.
- West Shore State Park (Flathead Lake)** — Is located 20 miles south of Kalispell and is reached by U. S. Highway 93. Picnic tables, fireplaces and toilets have been built. Parking space for trailers is not available.
- Yellow Bay State Park (Flathead Lake)** — On the east shore of the lake 20 miles north of Polson and adjacent to State Highway 35. Excellent beach and picnic tables, fireplaces and toilets. Camping is permitted and there is a limited space for trailers.
- Lost Creek State Park** — Features cascading Lost Creek Falls as the creek flows through scenic bottom of a 3,000-foot-deep canyon topped with towering limestone pinnacles. Park is equipped with picnicking and camping facilities and can be reached from U.S. Highway 10-A near Anaconda.
- Whitefish Lake State Park** — Located little more than a mile from the city of Whitefish, this park offers the scenic atmosphere where picnicking and camping facilities are available. Park is located off U. S. Highway 93 and close to Glacier National Park.
- Chief Joseph Battleground of the Bear's Paw** — Located 16 miles south of Chinook off U. S. No. 2, this is the latest addition to the system. It is historical site of the last great Indian battle of the Western frontier — the Nez Perces Indians under Chief Joseph and General Nelson Miles in command of the U. S. Army.
- Bitterroot Lake State Park** — Located 20 miles west of Kalispell and 5 miles north of U. S. Highway 2 at Marion. The park is equipped with a lodge and sleeping quarters and is used as a youth camp in the summer months. There are also camp facilities, picnic tables, fireplaces, etc., for the public.
- Makoshika State Park** — Located at the south edge of Glendive. Picnic facilities are available. Spectacular scenery of badlands is well worth a few minutes' drive.
- Rock Creek State Park** — Is 35 miles south of Fort Peck on the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir. Directions should be obtained at Fort Peck or Glasgow. This park may also be reached via Montana Highway 18 from Circle. Free picnic tables, fireplaces, change house and shelter house.
- Hell Creek State Park** — 34 miles north of Jordan off Montana Highway 18 on the south shore of Fort Peck Reservoir. Recreation area here is more sheltered than at Rock Creek. Long trailers should not attempt the winding road. Fishing, boating, swimming, and camping.
- Bannack State Monument** — This ghost town was the first territorial capitol of Montana. Picnic area for the historically minded visitors. Monument is 21 miles west of Dillon on U. S. 91.
- Missouri Headwaters State Monument** — Three miles east of Three Forks and three miles north of U. S. Highway 10 at Trident Junction is one of Montana's most historically interesting sites — the headwaters of the Missouri River. Camping facilities and limited space for trailers available.
- Lone Pine State Park** — Located on the outskirts of Kalispell, this park provides a scenic view of the entire Kalispell area.
- Canyon Ferry Recreational Area** — On the Missouri River 20 miles east of Helena. Camping and picnic facilities available.
- Tiber Reservoir Recreational Area** — Day Use Areas are located on both sides of the dam near the old Turner Bridge crossing on the Bootlegger Trail. Picnic facilities are available. Fishing and boating are very good.
- Bridger Mountain State Park** — Is 16 miles north of Bozeman and is best ski area in Montana. Has towline and warming hut.
- Medicine Rocks State Park** — Is 11 miles north of Ekalaka. Fantastic sandstone formations draw the visitors from far and near.
- Fort Owens State Monument** — Located near Stevensville. It is being restored and is an interesting historical site.
- Hooper State Park** — Located at the edge of Lincoln. Picnic facilities are available.



# *Fishing Is Good*





## Where to Catch 'Em

Montana's vast and beautiful outdoors provides fishing in abundance, not only in numbers but also in variety of fish. In the following paragraphs are very brief descriptions of the major watersheds of the state and of the species of fish which are likely to be found therein.

Montana has over fifteen hundred lakes and about 15,000 miles of fishable streams. In this stream mileage are included 31 major rivers. These figures do not take into account the many hundreds of small reservoirs which have been constructed in recent years by government agencies and private individuals, and which for the most part have been stocked with warm water fish and afford much pleasure and recreation to the persons residing in these localities.

Montana is traversed by four major watersheds — the Yellowstone, Missouri, Kootenai and Clark's Fork of the Columbia. These major streams, with their many tributaries and hundreds of connected lakes, offer to the angling enthusiast a diversity of fishing that can be found in few other places in the United States.

### Yellowstone River

The Yellowstone River watershed . . . the most southerly and easterly drainage as well as one of the largest, offers such a variety of fishing that it would take many pages to describe all of its waters in detail.

The headwaters of this river are in Yellowstone National Park and it flows into Montana in a northeasterly course until it crosses the boundary line between Montana's Richland County and North Dakota. It joins the Missouri River a few miles after crossing into North Dakota. In many of its headwater streams, especially those originating in Yellowstone Park and the Beartooth Mountains, the fisherman will find splendid **cutthroat trout** fishing.

As the Yellowstone flows down into Park, Sweetgrass and Stillwater Counties, the **rainbow** and **brown trout** reign supreme and a number of prize specimens of these species have been taken from this stretch of the river. It might also be mentioned here that he who prefers the art of **white-fishing** will have no trouble in indulging in this sport to his heart's content, as long as he remains in any of the waters within the three counties mentioned above.

By the time the Yellowstone River has reached Yellowstone County, it is biologically a much different stream than it was when it left Yellowstone Park. During the summer months, prevailing temperatures of the lower Yellowstone are relatively high and this area provides good warm water fishing. Chief among these are the **sauger, walleye pike, channel catfish, fresh water drum and ling**. Those individuals who have perfected the technique of angling for these fish stoutly defend their sport even when engaged in controversy with a confirmed trout fisherman.

The tributaries of the Yellowstone will also provide the angler with good to excellent fishing. Some of the more important tributary rivers and streams are the Stillwater River, Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone, Sweetgrass, Shields River, Boulder River, Hellroaring Creek, Slough Creek and many others. **Cutthroat trout** can be found in the headwaters of these and **rainbow** and **brown trout** in the lower stretches.



# Missouri River

This watershed embraces the largest part of Montana and drains all the remainder of the state lying east of the Continental Divide which is not drained by the Yellowstone.

In this watershed can undoubtedly be found the greatest diversity of fishing that exists anywhere in the United States. In its headwaters can be found **grayling, cutthroat trout, rainbow, eastern brook, and brown trout** while the lower stretches offer every advantage for warm water fishing ranging from **sturgeon, sauger, walleye pike** and **northern pike** to **sunfish, crappies, catfish** and **yellow perch**.



It might be well to start at the Montana-Dakota line on this great drainage system and work upstream to develop a picture of the transition from warm water to trout fishing.

There is fine **sauger** and **walleye pike** fishing in the Main Missouri from the North Dakota line to the Fort Peck Dam, especially during the spring migration of this species. **Fresh water drum, channel catfish, ling** and various rough species such as **carp, suckers, goldeye** and many others are commonly caught in this section of the river.

Immediately below the Fort Peck Dam there is good **rainbow trout, sauger** and **walleye pike** fishing.

Some of the more important tributaries of the Missouri River are described in the following paragraphs.

## Milk River

The Milk River has its confluence with the Missouri a few miles below the Fort Peck Dam.

The creation of Fresno Dam has added another fishing area to the northern part of Montana. It is not uncommon to catch **rainbow trout** weighing five to seven pounds; however, the **northern pike, sauger** and **walleye pike** are the principal inhabitants of this impoundment.

The headwaters of the Milk River which originate in Glacier County and Canada afford some mighty fine **rainbow** trout fishing.

## Fort Peck Lake

Fort Peck Lake, being such a large body of water in a sparsely populated area, has hardly been touched as far as fishing is concerned. The available fishing facilities are limited to the Fort Peck Dam area, the areas below and above the Dam, the Rock Creek area which is approached from Glendive, Montana, and the Hell Creek area on the south side of the lake which is approached through Miles City and Jordan.



Incidentally, this latter area is approached through the Badlands of Montana and the Missouri River breaks, famous in the history of the West. Many fossils have been found along this very scenic approach to Fort Peck Dam.

Another approach can be made from Lewistown in the Mosby area, coming in near the mouth of the Musselshell River, and still another is near the mouth of the Missouri near Wilden. The Pines area, south of the town of Fort Peck and on the north shore of the lake, is a favorite spot for many fishermen entering from Highway No. 2 on the north side of Fort Peck Lake.

Information regarding facilities available on Fort Peck Lake may be obtained by writing to the U. S. Army Engineers at Fort Peck, Montana. (Most of the developments on the lake were made by the Army Engineers for public recreational use.)

The waters of Fort Peck Reservoir, which embraces an acreage equal to all other lakes in the State combined, offer wonderful possibilities for diversified angling.

**Walleye pike, sauger, channel catfish** and **goldeye** are being caught.

A unique species, the **paddlefish** or **Polyodon** which is often over six feet in length is found in this lake.

## Musselshell River

As we progress upstream, we come to the junction of the Musselshell which drains a vast territory in Meagher, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell and Petroleum Counties.

The headwaters of this stream are stocked with **eastern brook, brown trout** and **rainbow**, as are several of the large reservoirs such as Martinsdale, Deadman's Basin, Harris and Sutherland.

The Musselshell River from Roundup to its headwaters affords some of the best **brown trout** fishing in Montana and ranks as a very highly productive stream. The trout fisherman might well consider this stream one of the most important in Montana for **brown trout** fishing.

## Judith River

The **Judith River** which converges with the Missouri quite some distance upstream from the Musselshell is also worthy of special mention as many of its tributaries are quite famous for the large specimens of **brown trout, eastern brook** and **rainbow trout** which enthusiastic anglers have caught.

One of the Judith's tributaries, Spring Creek, near Lewistown, is a good fishing stream and has remained so even though it flows through the city of Lewistown.

Spring Creek is also very accessible to the angling public, an important feature of this stretch of water. Information regarding the fishing in Spring Creek may be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce, Lewistown.

## Marias River

The Marias River was named by Lewis and Clark who thought it might be the main stem of the Missouri. The headwaters of this stream on the eastern slope of the Rockies afford good **trout** fishing.



One of the creeks which flows into the Marias heads on Three Waters Peak in Glacier Park, from which water flows into the Atlantic (through the Marias), into the Pacific and into Hudson Bay. This example shows how Montana's Rockies stand at the peak of the continent.

During 1955, tied in with the completion of Tiber Dam on the Marias River, the entire river system above the impoundment was rehabilitated. Rough fish were taken out and the area replanted to trout. Beginning with the Two Medicine River, in Glacier Park, Cut Bank Creek, Birch Creek, Willow Creek and the main Marias River all afford excellent rainbow trout fishing in the area adjacent to and east of Glacier Park. The Tiber impoundment has very excellent rainbow fishing and is well worth anyone's time to fish in this impoundment and the river system.

## Sun River

One of the outstanding streams flowing into the Missouri near Great Falls is the Sun River. To any fisherman who has ever visited this region, further explanation is unnecessary.

However, to those who have never had the opportunity of fishing the waters of the Sun River, which rises in the Lewis and Clark National Forest and drains a most rugged terrain, it must be pointed out that they have missed some of the greatest fishing for **eastern brook** and **rainbow**.

## Main Missouri River

From Great Falls on upstream, the main Missouri River becomes a **trout** stream worthy of special mention and from its waters are made many fine catches of **rainbow**, **brown trout** and **whitefish**.



Continuing upstream, the impoundments created by Holter Dam, Hauser Dam and Canyon Ferry Dam provide excellent **boat fishing**. Here catches of **brown trout**, **rainbow** and **sockeye salmon** are making these impoundments more important to lake fishermen who desire this type of fishing.

Of these impoundments Hauser Lake is managed extensively for trout fishing, and is considered one of the main impoundment reservoirs for fishing in the Missouri River system.

Further upstream near Three Forks, is where fishing history is really made. For it is at this point that three major watersheds—the Jefferson, the Madison and the Gallatin Rivers converge to form the Missouri River.

## Gallatin River

The Gallatin River with its tributaries draining Gallatin, Park and Madison Counties and also a portion of Yellowstone National Park offers a diversity of fishing for **eastern brook**, **rainbow**, **brown trout**, and **cutthroat trout**.





## Madison River

The Madison River rising in Yellowstone National Park and draining much of Madison and Gallatin Counties holds the enviable reputation of being the **most outstanding trout stream in the United States**, if not in the world.

The headwaters of the Madison rise in Yellowstone National Park and carry a wealth of minerals from the Hot Springs area. **Rainbow** and **brown trout** are supreme and the river is a paradise for the **fly fisherman**. Hebgen and Meadow Lakes, artificial impoundments of the main Madison River, are famous for the sport they offer the fisherman who trolls and even to the ardent fly fisherman.

Near the headwaters of the Madison River are located Cliff, Wade and Hidden Lakes that provide excellent trout fishing, either by trolling or fly casting.

In the headwaters of both the Gallatin and Madison drainages, there are lakes that afford **golden trout** fishing, important to the back woods packer and outdoor enthusiast wishing to explore Montana's high mountain lakes.

## Jefferson River

The Jefferson River, which is the third of the Three Forks of the Missouri, is formed by the junction of the Big Hole River and the Beaverhead River. The lower regions of the Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers are well supplied with **brown trout** and **rainbow trout**.



This is a popular drainage for fishermen of the southwestern section of the state of Montana and the fishermen coming from neighboring states west of the Divide.

In the upper regions of this Jefferson drainage is found splendid **eastern brook trout** fishing. **Cutthroat trout** are abundant in the upper watersheds of this area. It is in this area that the famed **Montana grayling** is still available to the curious angler.

## The Big Hole River

The Big Hole River in southwestern Montana is very famous for its **brown trout** and **rainbow trout** fishing, and its upper watersheds afford **grayling** and **cutthroat trout** fishing. People from many states travel to the Big Hole each year to participate in this outdoor recreation.

It may be said that the Beaverhead and the Big Hole Rivers will meet the expectations of any trout fisherman, fishing with either **spinning equipment** or **dry fly gear**.

In this drainage there are many high mountain lakes that may be explored for their fishing and camping by those who wish to go into some of the back country.

## Clark's Fork of the Columbia River

So far only the waters on the eastern slope of the Rockies have been covered. Let's cross the Divide and drop down into the headwaters of the Clark's Fork of the Columbia River which has its origin in Silver Bow, Powell and Granite Counties.





The Clarks Fork River from Garrison to Missoula is becoming a very popular fishing stream and is accessible along Highway No. 10 almost in its entirety.

Practically all of its tributaries in these counties afford very good **brook trout** and **cutthroat** fishing, while **rainbow** may be found further down stream. **Brown trout** are also to be found on the western slope. The Little Blackfoot which flows through Powell County is an outstanding example of a fine **brown trout** stream.

## Georgetown Lake

Of all the headwaters of the Clark's Fork drainage, Georgetown Lake, which was created many years ago by impoundment, may be considered the best lake fishing that is accessible by motor traffic.

In managing this lake as a source of eggs for spawning operations the Fish and Game Department has maintained a good supply of **native black-spotted trout, rainbow trout, eastern brook trout, silver salmon** and the **Montana grayling** by stocking and regulating these species throughout the years.

Many large catches and limits of fish are taken annually by both **trolling** and **fly fishing**. The lake itself is in a very beautiful setting of mountains and timber land and is an ideal location for fishing and outings.

## Flint Creek-Rock Creek

Flint Creek, the outlet of Georgetown Lake, is a part of the headwaters of the Clark's Fork River.

Rock Creek, which is almost entirely within Granite County and which flows into the Clark's Fork a few miles below Bonita, is one of the finest **trout** streams on the western slope. Its ability to stand up under heavy fishing pressure to which it has been subjected in years past has been nothing short of miraculous.

Much of this stream meanders through high mountain meadows which are instrumental in introducing a large amount of fertile material into its waters. This undoubtedly is one of the main contributory factors in its being able to support a large trout population.

It is mainly a **rainbow** and **cutthroat stream**. **Rainbow**, of course, are found in the lower stretches and **cutthroat** in its headwaters.

## Big Blackfoot River

As the Clark's Fork passes through the town of Bonner, it is joined by the Big Blackfoot River which drains much of Powell, Lewis and Clark and Missoula Counties with its headwaters in the famous Clearwater Lakes region.

The Big Blackfoot, like many of the streams on the western slope, is not drained by a large number of irrigation diversions and is one of the outstanding **trout** streams in that region. This stream, like Rock Creek, produces principally **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout**.





Near Missoula, the Big Blackfoot River joins the Clark's Fork of the Columbia and drains a large area east and north on the west side of the Continental Divide. This drainage area affords **rainbow, cutthroat** and **eastern brook trout** fishing in the entire area.

Joining the Big Blackfoot River is the Clearwater River which drains the Clearwater Chain of Lakes (Salmon, Seeley, Inez, Clearwater and Placid Lakes.) These lakes furnish **trout** fishing and **bass** fishing.

**Sockeye salmon** have been introduced into several of the Clearwater Lakes and these introductions further supplement the fishing enjoyment of this region.

In addition to the **eastern brook**, these lakes also have the other member of the char family — the **Dolly Varden** which is sometimes called **bull trout**. The area is most scenic and is well worthwhile for the traveling angler to explore and enjoy.

Above the Clearwater intersection is the Blackfoot River to its headwaters. This stream affords **excellent float trips** for the more hardy angler who enjoys this type of fishing. The value of the Blackfoot River from Lincoln to Missoula cannot be discounted as it is a most valuable recreational area.

The Clearwater chain of lakes and all of the area of the Clearwater drainage north and south and the Blackfoot River running east and west comprises a huge area of recreational possibilities with key passes through and into the upper South Fork of the Flathead and the Bob Marshall wilderness area. Dude ranches and guides are available in this area at all times of the year.

## Bitterroot River

A few miles below the city of Missoula, the Bitterroot River contributes its water to the Clark's Fork of the Columbia. Fishing possibilities in this area are almost unlimited. Practically all of Ravalli County lies in the Bitterroot drainage and at its headwaters may be found many beautiful sub-alpine lakes which provide predominantly **cutthroat trout** fishing.

**Rainbow, brook** and **brown trout** are the principal trout inhabitants of the Bitterroot River. During the winter months, **whitefishing** is a very popular sport.



## Lower Flathead River

Not far from the town of Paradise, the Clark's Fork of the Columbia is joined by the Flathead River. The Flathead River below Flathead Lake is a large meandering stream and catches of **cutthroat**, **Dolly Varden**, **brown trout** and **rainbow trout** can be made in this area.

It, too, is a stream well suited for **boat trips** by the angling public.

## Flathead Lake

From Flathead Lake upward, including all of the tributaries and connected lakes of this vast drainage system, the utmost in fishing, recreation and pleasure may be expected.

At the present time, Flathead Lake is **open** to fishing **the year around** for all species of fish in open waters and through the ice. **Cutthroat**, **rainbow**, **Dolly Varden** and **sockeye salmon** are the most sought game fish found in this lake.

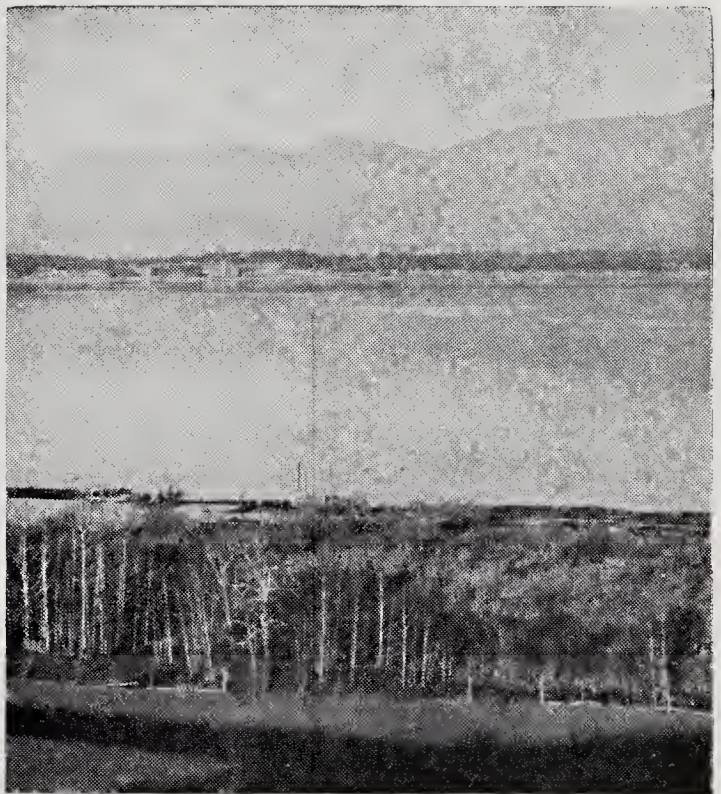
However, **bass** fishing enthusiasts may find a number of protected bays and side sloughs where specimens ranging up to five and six pounds are not at all uncommon.

**Perch** fishing is popular to a considerable extent during the late summer months and through the winter. While the average specimens are not as large as those caught in the warmer waters in the eastern part of the state, the meat is of a very high quality.

The whitefish fishermen are also in seventh heaven for within the waters of Flathead Lake are found the **Rocky Mountain** and **Lake Superior whitefish** with many of these specimens averaging two to three pounds.

One of the highlights of the Flathead Lake fishing comes during the fall of the year when the many thousands of **sockeye salmon** having completed their four-year cycle of growth, reach maturity and converge on the many gravel-rimmed shores of the lake to deposit their eggs.

It is at this point that hundreds of fishermen congregate yearly and many tons of choice **sockeye salmon** find their way into the fishermen's creels.



## Upper Flathead River

Flathead River above Flathead Lake is divided into three main tributaries—the North Fork, the Middle Fork and the South Fork. The fishing in all of these is indeed worthy of special mention and consists principally of **cutthroat** and **Dolly Varden**.



In this river system are many remote and primitive areas including the famous Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, accessible only by trail. To those who wish to sacrifice the comfort and ease of riding on the main highways and hit the back trails on foot or horseback will come the rich reward of hard-fighting **trout**.

Over half of the Glacier Park area is drained by tributaries of the Flathead. In this area are many lakes which afford fine **bass, cutthroat** and **rainbow trout** fishing.

Whitefish Lake, located on the Whitefish River, is most famous for its large **mackinaw trout** and good catches are constantly made from this body of water.

## Swan River

The Swan River drains into Flathead Lake from Swan Lake. The Swan River drainage is about 60 miles long and is comprised of many miles of excellent **cutthroat** and **rainbow trout** fishing in the main river and its tributaries. The headwaters of the Swan River are Holland and Lindberg Lakes. There now exists a through highway system from Big Fork, Montana, at the confluence of the Swan River, and Flathead Lake, south through the valley between the Swan Range and the Mission Range, through the Clearwater drainage to the Big Blackfoot River. This makes an excellent large fishing area comprised of both lake and stream fishing.

## Lower Clark's Fork River

From the mouth of the Flathead River, the Clark's Fork River winds down through canyons and forms the Cabinet Gorge Reservoir on the boundary between Montana and Idaho.

This reservoir can be reached handily and access is available from the highway for boat fishing. Catches of **sockeye salmon, rainbow trout** and **cutthroat** can be expected.

## Kootenai River

The Kootenai River, situated in the very northwest corner of Montana entirely within Lincoln County, rises in Canada. It flows into Montana and through Idaho, then back into Canada, through the Kootenai Lakes and thence into the Columbia River.

This region possesses a number of outstanding streams such as the Fisher River, Tobacco River, Yaak River and many smaller tributaries in addition to a large number of mountain lakes. All of these abound with **trout** of either **cutthroat, eastern brook** or **rainbow** variety.

The main Kootenai River offers very good **cutthroat** and **Dolly Varden** angling.

## Lake Fishing In Eastern Montana

In the development of the West, everyone considers the raising of cattle as a primary industry. Coupled with the livestock industry in later years was a program geared to increased production. With this came the necessity for water.



Through different governmental and state agencies, stock water reservoirs and lakes ranging in size from five to five hundred acres were created as catching basins for snow and rain water runoff. On the prairies of eastern Montana, throughout both the Missouri and Yellowstone River drainages, are many of these reservoirs.

Through cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Montana Fish and Game Department, these isolated waters of the prairie lands were stocked with **bass, blue gills, crappie, walleye pike, and northern pike**. Each year about 200 ponds are stocked in the eastern plains area. These ponds are not old lakes or spent streams but they are new, live-water fishing lakes.

Anyone wishing to roam over the historic prairie lands where the buffalo and antelope formerly were the only inhabitants will come upon small lakes with warm water fishing comparable with any they have experienced elsewhere.

## Fisheries Management

Fish management has come to mean almost everything done to protect and improve conditions for fish and fishing. It is concerned with fish losses, including losses resulting from the shrinkage of fish habitat. It is concerned with the proper use of hatchery fish, with stream and lake improvement and rough fish eradication, with access to fishing areas, the creation of new fishing waters, and with investigation and solution of management problems. These are the chores of a fishery biologist.

Probably the most serious problem presently facing the fishery manager is the destruction of good fish habitat throughout such forces as water pollution, excess removal of water, channel clearing and straightening, dam building, and siltation resulting from improper land use.

It must be realized that with suitable habitat, fish can maintain their populations. In fact, the bulk of fish caught in Montana today are wild fish, but good fishing waters are gradually being chipped away.

The fish hatchery is an important tool in fisheries management. Maintained in Montana are eleven state and three federal trout hatcheries. One federal warm water hatchery supplies fish for suitable Montana waters. Since considerable cost is involved in rearing fish, the actual need for fish, suitability of habitat, and return to the creel must be continuously studied and evaluated.

Fishing access is becoming more important as numbers of anglers increase and areas available for fishing are at the same time being whittled down. Public lands are being surveyed for their fishing access value and means are being taken to insure that desirable areas are retained in public ownership. When funds are available, strategic lands are purchased for fishing access.

With our ever increasing economic development and population, we inadvertantly encroach on the habitat of both fish and wildlife. We should never lose sight of the fact that destruction of fish habitat automatically eliminates the fish. Everyone should endeavor to conserve the water resource—key to good fishing.



## **FISHING ACCESS**

Sites provided through the Fish and Game Department for public access to fishing areas, are:

### **Madison Drainage**

Miles from Ennis:

1. Armitage Tract 5 miles south on Highway 1, approximately 70 acres.
2. Pasely Tract 4 miles south on west side of river, approximately 27 acres.
3. Thexton Tract 6 miles south on west side of river, approximately 30 acres.
4. Coad Tract 12 miles south at Varney Bridge, 5 acres.
5. Sun Ranch road right-of-way to public domain, 40 miles south.
6. Meadow Lake west side, 5½ acres, 7 miles north.
7. Cline Ranch, 12 miles south of Three Forks, 604 acres.

### **Stillwater Drainage**

1. Play Tract 6 miles south of Columbus, 5.5 acres.
2. Johnson Bridge 3 miles south of Absarokee, 2 acres.
3. Willis Tract 3 miles south of Nye, 6 acres.
4. Rosebud Isle, Fishtail, 9.80 acres.

### **Lakes**

Aarod—10 miles west of Brady, 17 acres.

Upsata—10 miles northwest of Ovando.

~~Bean—15 miles west of Augusta, 5.5 acres.~~

Sophie—5.62 acres.

Broadview Pond—Broadview, 55 acres.

Park Lake—South of Helena, 95 acres.

Savage Lake—Near Troy.

Boot Jack Lake—Near Kalispell.

Dailey Lake—22 miles south of Livingston, 122 acres.

Skyles Lake—Near Whitefish, 1 acre.

Sweet Grass Canyon Lake—Northwest of Melville 20 miles, 20 acres.

No facilities available—camping and trailer houses allowed where space will permit.



# *Upland Game Bird Hunting*





# HUNTING UPLAND GAME BIRDS

A great many Montana hunters think of game birds first when they think of hunting. And of these upland game birds—the various grouse species, the Hungarian partridge and the ring-necked pheasant are the first love of nearly all hunters.

Of all forms of gunning, upland game bird wingshooting is probably the most varied and demanding of skill in the use of scatterguns.

Wingshooting provides a maximum amount of thrills and requires a minimum of equipment and expense. And the hunt is by no means over when the bag is full, for the ultimate in good eating qualities are to be found in Montana's upland game birds.

## The Grouse

Today, the mainstays of Montana grouse hunting are the sharptail and sage hen in the eastern plains and prairies of the state, and in the mountainous portion of western Montana are the ruffed grouse, blue grouse and Franklin's grouse or fool hen.

## Sage Grouse

The sage grouse is the largest representative of this group, with cocks averaging five and one-half pounds in weight. They were formerly abundant in 15 states. At present they are found in only eight states and are hunted occasionally in only four. These are Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado.

This bird, in common with other grouse species, goes through periods of abundance and scarcity. When the top of the cycle is reached hunting seasons are allowed in many of Montana's southeastern counties.

This fine big grouse lives on the sage brush plains and rolling hills of the high, arid prairie lands. Much of the ground it inhabits is useless for anything but grazing, a factor that has probably saved the species from extinction.

## Sharp-Tailed Grouse

The sharp-tailed grouse is the common species of the eastern prairies and grasslands of Montana. They are plump birds, weighing up to two and one-half pounds.

They get away quickly and during flight, always give themselves away by cackling. Like the sage grouse, they have their population ups-and-downs, but since they occupy a much larger range, they can and do stand greater hunting pressure.

## Ruffed Grouse

The ruffed grouse is a bird of the tangled alder and willow thickets along most small stream courses in the western one-third of Montana's land area.



Where it has learned the lesson of wariness from contact with civilization, it offers probably the best sport of any of the mountain birds. The flush is always noisy and if possible, the bird will put some obstacles between himself and the hunter.

## **Blue Grouse**

Blue grouse are birds of the high-timbered mountains. They usually follow the food supply down the mountains to the low valley by late summer, but are most at home in the high alpine parks and meadows and in the dark fir forests where they spend a great deal of time in the trees.

## **Franklin's Grouse (Fool Hen)**

Franklin's grouse is associated with spruce and lodgepole forests and is usually found near water. Only in portions of our northwestern counties and in some of the primitive areas can it be considered at all common.

Its gullible nature has given it the name of "Fool-Hen" since it is rapidly vanishing from all but the most lonely localities.

## **GROUSE SEASONS**

Hunting seasons for both prairie and mountain grouse are opened concurrently and length of season depends on local abundance. Seasons are usually in late September.

Best sharp-tailed grouse hunting is found in the dry-land wheatfields in southeastern Montana, in the breaks along the Missouri and in the rolling foothills in Judith Basin County.

Best mountain grouse hunting is found in the back country from Granite County northward through Lincoln County. Most hunters will avail themselves of roads to the higher ridges and then work out likely stream bottoms and ridges.

Specific information on seasons, dates and bag limits may be obtained after August 15 each year by writing the Montana Fish and Game Department at Helena.

During the fall of 1958, a season was declared on this "king of game birds" in the Longpines area.

The 1959 Legislation provided for a special two dollar turkey permit, and we are looking forward to expanding the turkey program in Montana.

## **Partridge**

Montana has two species of partridge—the Hungarian and the Chukar. The Hun has been hunted for many years, but it was not until the 1959 Legislative Session that the Chukar was defined as an upland game bird. Hunting may be allowed on Chukars in limited areas.



## Chukar Partridge

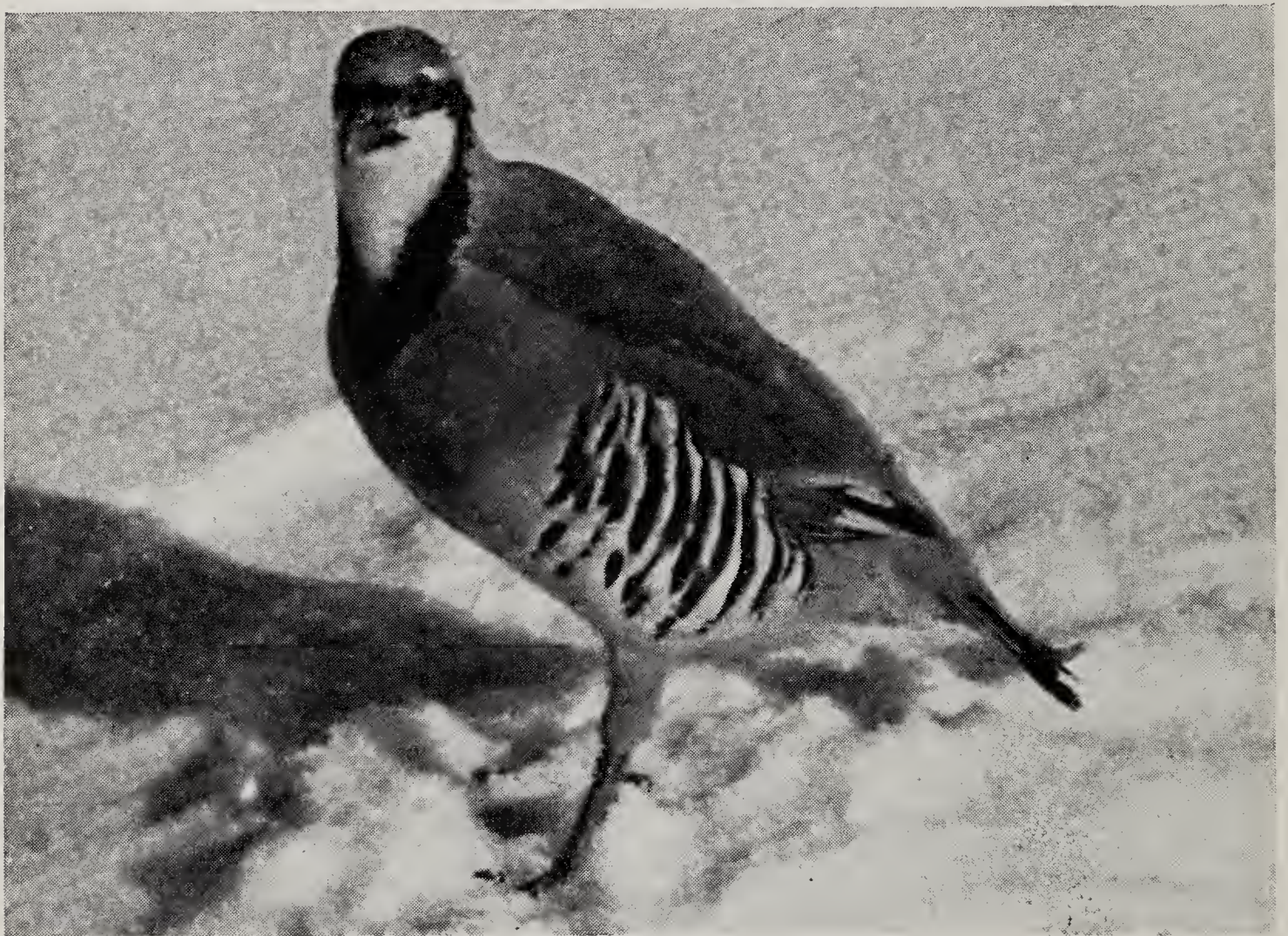
This fine game bird is a native of India and is about the same size as the familiar Hungarian partridge. Color of the Chukar is blue-gray, throat white outlined with black, belly white, flanks beautifully marked with black and chestnut, legs, feet and bill are red.

Previous introductions of this bird in Montana have been unsuccessful, probably due to brood stock which originated in areas having greatly different climates than that of Montana.

However, some western states—notably Oregon, Arizona and Wyoming—have had excellent success with this bird. The Montana Fish and Game Department has released brood stock derived from these successful strains and it is possible that hunting of the bird may be permitted in a few areas of Montana.

The Chukar is a covey bird, lies fairly well to a dog, but is also like the pheasant, a master runner and skulker.

Preferred Chukar habitat is open, precipitous slopes with much slide rock and cheat-grass. Definite figures are not available on the ability of the Chukar to survive heavy snows and severe cold, but they do not suffer very harmful effects, apparently, since some have been sighted in high, cold country.





## Hungarian Partridge

The Hun is a European native first introduced into Montana thirty years ago. Between 1921 and 1929, the Montana Fish and Game Department purchased 6,600 Hungarian partridges, mostly from European countries. The first open season was in 1929, but because the bird fluctuates violently in numbers, there have been several periods when there were too few anywhere in the state to justify an open season.

The Hun has taken hold best in the plains-type habitat where there is much open country devoted to wheat farming interspersed with grasslands. They tend to flock together in family groups, or coveys, which lie fairly well to a dog. These birds are wary, scatter widely when flushed and often fly far. Like the ring-necked pheasant, these fellows are masters in the art of skulking and running.

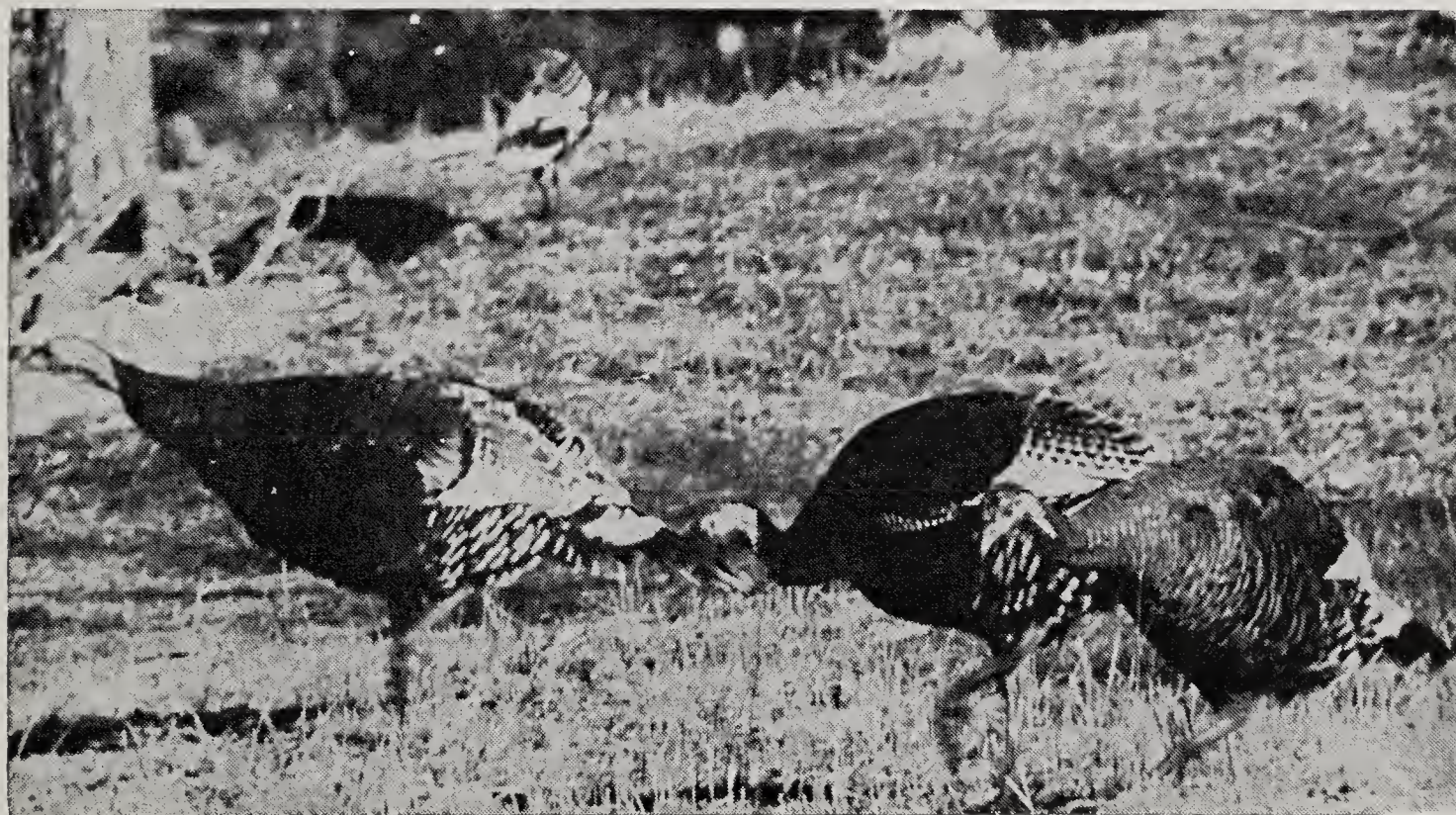
Certainly this swift, canny bird—a table delicacy as well as a real sporting proposition before the gun—should not be overlooked during open season.

Open seasons each year vary according to current abundance and bag and possession limits are established by the Montana Fish and Game Commission in August.

Best hunting in normal years may be found in the vast dry-land wheat farming areas such as the Judith Basin, the areas surrounding Great Falls, and the highline area composed of counties in the Milk River drainage.

## Wild Turkeys

In January of 1955, five tom turkeys and thirteen hens received from Wyoming were released in the Longpines area of Carter County, Montana. Through a trapping and transplanting program, a few imported turkeys have been expanded into several turkey flocks and their success has exceeded the hope of even biologists working with the program.





## Ring-Necked Pheasant

The ring-necked pheasant supplies more hunting than any other Montana upland game bird. The species was introduced into our state as early as 1895, but it was not until the late 1930s that they came into their own.

In general, the pheasant is found in greatest numbers along the stream bottoms and throughout irrigated valleys and benchlands below a 4,500 foot altitude. Here the combination of longer growing seasons, diversified farming, ditch banks, and marshy cattail bottoms provide the essential roosting, hiding and nesting cover as well as an abundant food supply.

Open areas and bag limits are determined by Commission action after weighing all the biological factors involved, such as success of the current year's hatch, and comparative abundance in the different areas in the state.

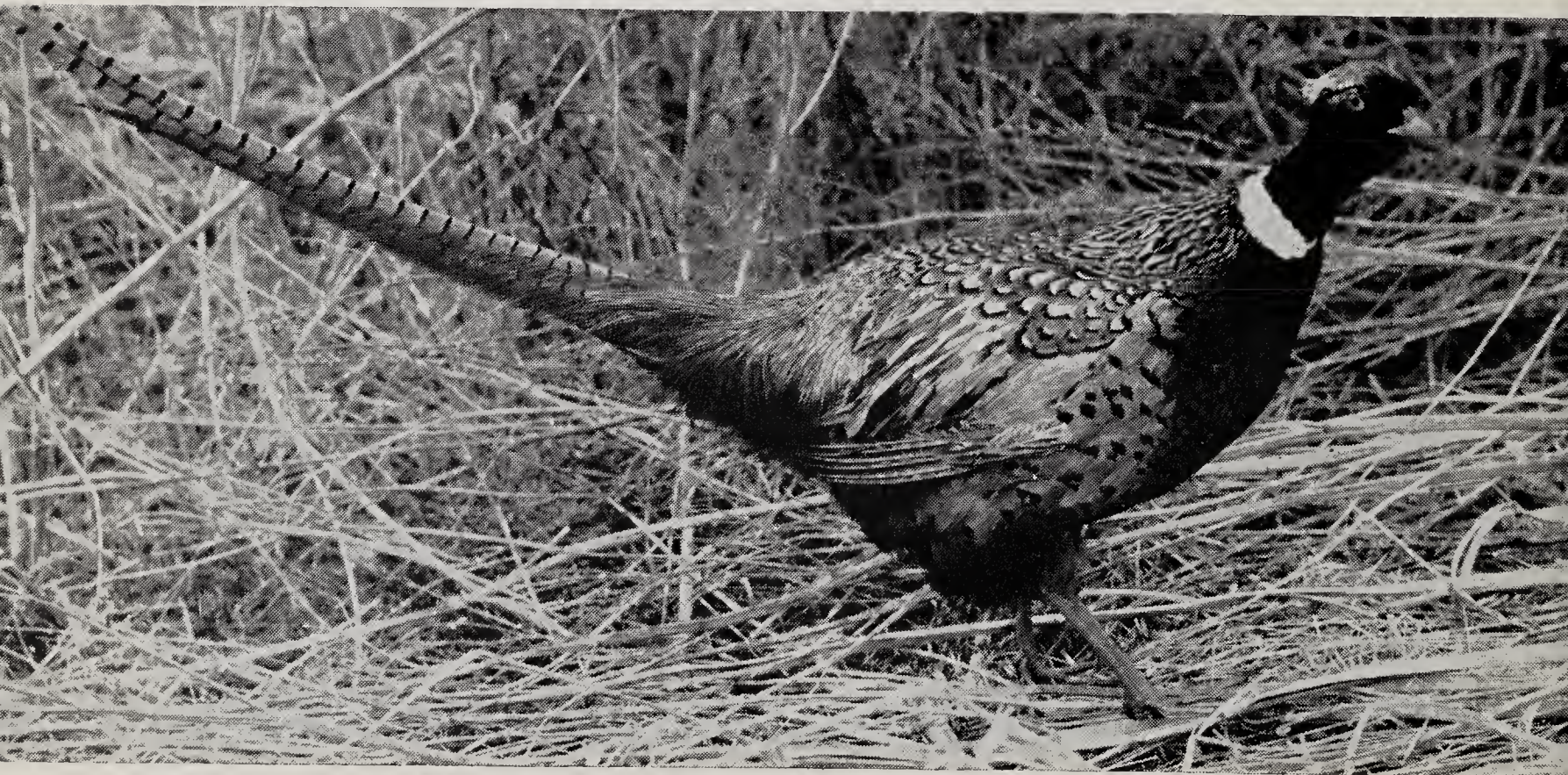
The pheasant season generally is open on a state-wide basis during late October and early November for a 10 to 14 day period. There are three areas in Montana that have pheasant populations equal to (or better than) the best pheasant areas in the United States, acre for acre.

These are the lower Flathead Valley between Polson and St. Ignatius; the Sun River Irrigation Project, particularly in the vicinity of Fairfield; and the irrigated croplands in the vicinity of Conrad and Valier.

Here John Pheasant finds conditions to his liking and the average hunter bags more birds with less effort than in many highly publicized areas in other parts of the nation.

Excellent hunting is found along the lower Yellowstone River Valley, the Milk and Musselshell Rivers and in numerous other irrigated valleys in both eastern and western Montana.

Although many a rooster is bagged without a dog, it is a good idea to use one. The pheasant is unsurpassed in the art of hiding when crippled, and it takes a lot of well-placed shot to put him down for good.







## *Migratory Waterfowl*

Montana offers some of the best migratory waterfowl hunting to be found along any of the flyways. Hunting is governed by federal regulations and bag and possession limits are set each year by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

However, each state is allowed to establish its own season within a given time limit. In the past several years, Montana has had a continuous 60-day season, starting in the latter part of October and ending by mid-December.

Montana is a focal point for migratory waterfowl in that birds from three flyways pass through the state on their way to the wintering grounds in the south.

Some of the best duck hunting is to be found along the high-line of Montana which is located in the north-central part of the state along the Milk River drainage. Good duck hunting may also be found in the water areas in the mountainous portion of western Montana.

Among the puddle ducks, the hunter will find **mallards** to be the most abundant species in the state, followed by **blue wing teal**. Early in the season **canvasbacks** and **goldeneye** make up the bulk of the diving ducks found in Montana.

**Canada geese** or **honkers** predominate in Montana's wild geese population, and the beautiful **snow goose** is found in surprising numbers during the fall hunting season in many areas of the state. The **white fronted** or **blue goose** can be found in huntable numbers in one area of Montana only. This is in the northeast corner of the state near Plentywood.

**Snow goose** hunting is not allowed at any time in Madison, Jefferson and Beaverhead Counties. This precaution, in effect for a number of years, is a protective measure for the **Trumpeter Swan** which in flight is often mistaken for the snow goose. The **Trumpeter**, once near extinction, is making a desirable comeback in the federal refuge at Red Rock Lakes, Montana.

Waterfowl hunters must use a shotgun no larger than 10 gauge with no more than three shells (one in the chamber and two in the magazine). Dogs are desirable to avoid loss of crippled birds.



# *Big Game*





# Montana's Big Game Hunting

When the leaves start turning into brilliant reds and golds of Montana's "Indian Summer" and the air has that fresh autumn feeling, then the big game hunters come to life. Dreams of again stalking that big buck begin to materialize, rifles are carefully polished and other gear is made ready. The big hunt is about to start.

In a state as large as Montana, there's a lot of room to hunt, so the anxious nimrod must decide where and when he wants to go. However, there are several factors which will affect a hunting trip, so let's consider these. First is the weather.

## WEATHER

In a mountainous country, weather is an unpredictable commodity, but usually October in Montana is a vast panorama of vivid color, with the brisk, delightful weather known as Indian Summer. After the first of November, cold and snow should be anticipated. In fact, those extra "woolies" won't feel bad at all. The following summary is anyone's guess, but it is a fair yardstick of average weather.

September 1-15 — Warm to hot—occasional rain.

September 15-30 — Warm with an occasional early snow storm in the higher altitudes.

October 1-31 — Brisk to cool—mountain snow storms very probable.

November 1-30 — Cool to cold—permanent snows arrive about mid-November.

December 1 — "B-r-r-r."

The best big game hunting can be done when tracks are clearly visible after a light snowfall. Hunters are cautioned to be extremely careful with fire at all times.

## EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHES

If properly dressed, the weather will not be a problem and long-handled underwear with wool shirt and heavy pants are standard equipment. A wind breaker jacket or parka will take care of any "unusual weather." Hunters are required by law to display some red outer garment, so be sure to have a red hat, red shirt, or jacket.

If you plan to be out more than one or two days, it is a good idea to carry a complete change of clothing in case you get wet.

A long raincoat or slicker and a broad-brimmed or billed hat will give added protection against sudden rain or snow storms, if you are traveling by horse.

Footwear is most important and pacs or rubber boots are best for warmth and traction. Be sure to watch the bottoms for tread. Mountain sides are very slippery and you should have a cleated shoe. Good wool socks and gloves or mittens are important.

Routine equipment should include a good hunting knife, a waterproof match case, several feet of rope and a hatchet. The trip may be more profitable and pleasant if gear includes a small flashlight with extra batteries and bulbs, notebook and paper, binoculars, pocket knife, collapsible drinking cup, compass, sun glasses and photographic equipment to record your hunting expedition.



Of course, the most important thing is a gun. Without trying to start an argument with the small caliber enthusiasts, we suggest a big gun as proper equipment for elk and the larger game animals. Almost 40 percent of the big game hunters in Montana favor the 30.06. The .270 and .300 magnum or other guns of comparable killing power are satisfactory. Be familiar with your firearm and have it sighted in prior to arrival. Don't practice in the hunting area!

Information on archery equipment may be found on page 5.

## PHYSICAL CONDITION

Big game hunting is not for soft, flabby muscles. It is rugged work particularly hunting goats, sheep, bear and elk. You must expect to walk, or at least ride horseback much of the time. Try to be in fair condition before you arrive. Also expect to get up before daylight—dawn is the best time to spot game.

## GUIDE AND OUTFITTERS

Montana law does not require the use of a guide or outfitter, but they will be very helpful if you are unfamiliar with the country. Persons engaged in guiding and outfitting must be licensed by the Montana Fish and Game Department. **A list of the licensed guides may be obtained by writing to the Fish and Game Department in Helena.**

Prices for guide service vary but the average is about \$30.00 to \$35.00 per day. This amount includes the cost for everything except personal gear. Your guide or outfitter will probably meet you at the nearest bus, air or rail terminal and will furnish transportation to his headquarters. Horses, saddles, camping equipment, food, cook or a wrangler will also be provided. Your guide can usually take you to an area where you will have every chance to bag your game.

The Montana Fish and Game Department does not recommend specific guides, but suggests that hunters contact one or more guides in the areas they select to hunt. Determine from them what they offer and what it will cost.

## ELK (Wapiti)

This large member of the deer family is much in demand and may be hunted in several areas of the state. A careful study of the Montana big game hunter's map (available free of charge after July, by writing the Montana Fish and Game Department in Helena) will show a number of places where it is legal to hunt elk.

Many factors affect elk hunting, and chief among these is the weather. Elk will remain in their high mountain elevations until snow forces them to seek better forage in the lower altitudes. Therefore, what one year may have been an excellent elk hunting area in October, may not be at all good until November of another year.

The best elk hunting requires packing into the back country, although many Montana elk have been taken by roadside hunters and those who are willing to travel short distances on foot.

**Montana has two areas for elk hunting which open early in the season.** These usually open in September and are located in the South Fork of the Flathead River drainage and the Absaroka Plateau near Yellowstone Park.



For the South Fork of the Flathead, the hunter will find accommodations, guide service and access points at Kalispell, Missoula, Whitefish, Big Fork, Ronan, East and West Glacier, Augusta, Choteau, Bynum, Dupuyer, Browning, Babb, Polebridge, Libby, Martin City, Pablo, Lakeside, Conrad, Arlee, Stryker, Marion, Eureka, and Coram.

In this area the hunter will also find mule and white-tailed deer, grizzly, black and brown bear and usually an open area where a permit is not required for mountain goats.

In the Absaroka area the hunter will see some of Montana's most beautiful scenery in the pursuit of elk, deer, bear and for the lucky holders of special permits—moose, sheep and even buffalo.

Access points are at Livingston, Big Timber, Gardiner, Cooke City, Silver Gate, Beehive, Jardine, Nye, McLeod and Bean.

**Later in the season the elk hunter will be interested in these areas: Open date is usually near Oct. 15.**

**Mineral County**—Partly accessible by road but pack horses are required for the best hunting.

The herds of elk in this area are small but hunters may combine elk hunting with the excellent mule and white-tailed deer, brown and black bear hunting, which is also found in this area.

Packers and guides are available at nearby towns of St. Regis, Lozeau, Cabin City, Haugen, Alberton and Superior.

**Sanders County**—Elk hunting in the Cherry Creek area of this county is fairly good and hunters will also have the opportunity to take mule and white-tailed deer, brown and black bear.

Access points include Thompson Falls, Plains, Perma and Paradise.

**Ravalli County** — Along the west fork of the Bitterroot River drainage, the hunter will have an excellent chance to take home a trophy from the big Selway elk herd which drifts between Montana and Idaho throughout the year. In the same country, the hunter will find good shooting in the Skalkaho area and a little later in the season, along the west and south slopes of the Sapphire Mountains. Mule deer hunting is excellent in this country as is black and brown bear hunting.

Nearby towns include Hamilton, Stevensville, Corvallis, Darby, Lolo, Conner, Victor and Sula.

**Granite-Deer Lodge Counties**—The Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness Area as well as Rock Creek and Flint Creek, is choice habitat for small bands of elk. The hunter can also easily take mule deer or black and brown bear.

Access points may be found at Drummond, Philipsburg, Deer Lodge and Anaconda.

**Beaverhead County** — The Big Hole area of this county is ideal elk country during the regular season and later in the year. Elk drift into the Medicine Lodge and Blacktail Creek areas from Idaho. Hunters can find excellent mule deer hunting in this area as well as black and brown bear.

Access points include Dillon, Wisdom, Armstead, Dell, Lima, Wise River and Melrose.



**Madison-Gallatin Counties**—A large herd of native elk occupies the Gallatin River drainage and during the regular season, hunters are sure to find a big game animal along the divide which separates these two counties. They will also find excellent mule deer hunting, black and brown bear and an occasional grizzly.

Access points include Bozeman, Ennis, Virginia City, Gallatin Gateway, Grayling, Cameron, McAllister, West Yellowstone, Cliff Lake, Monida and Armstead.

**South and Middle Forks of the Flathead River**—Although this area has been mentioned for its early elk season, it must be pointed out that it is excellent elk country during the regular season also. This is primitive country, far from civilization and plumb beautiful. It lies on the west slope of the Continental Divide. A part of this big area—the Bob Marshall Wilderness—is outstanding for its wild beauty. You'll have to sit on a horse most of the time, but it's hard to beat if you want to get 'way back in the hills and you'll really have to hunt—but that's what you want, isn't it?

**Sun River**—Across the Continental Divide from the Flathead Drainage and draining eastward, the Sun River flows into the Missouri. This is also a primitive country with a huge panorama of wilderness beauty.

The elk season here opens with the regular season although much of the success in this area depends on weather conditions. The elk herd in this area is one of the largest in the nation and they prefer to remain within the confines of the game preserve until snow forces them down from their high elevations along the Continental Divide.

In Augusta, nearest point of access, in recent years elk have been noted drifting toward the sanctuary of the game range in the foothills during the entire season, thus affording good hunting during the regular season.

Hunters will also find good mule deer hunting with a few white-tailed deer, black, brown and grizzly bears, and for the permit holders, mountain sheep.

Access points include Choteau, Wolf Creek, Valier and Augusta.

**Blackfoot-Clearwater Drainage** — This area is partially accessible by roads and some hunting may be done with a certain amount of foot travel. The best trips, however, require packing into the high, back country.

This is the west side of the Sun River area, and elk migrate over the Continental Divide, affording moderately good hunting, depending again on weather conditions.

Access points include Missoula, Greenough, Lincoln, Canyon Creek, Ovando, Swan Lake, Seeley Lake, and Helmville.







**Little Belt Mountains** (Meagher County)—Moderately good elk hunting, but due to the size of the herd, most of the hunting is confined to bulls. Excellent mule deer hunting may be combined with elk.

Access from roads is possible with a fair assurance of success, but the best hunting will be found by packing in.

Nearby access points include White Sulphur Springs, Utica, Martinsdale, Melville and Stanford.

## DEER HUNTING

### WHITE-TAILED DEER

This deer is a challenge to hunters, as it is usually found in heavily timbered or brushy areas. The very best hunting of this wily rascal is found throughout the northwest portion of the state, particularly in Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Mineral, Missoula and Powell Counties. It is also quite abundant throughout several of the larger river bottom areas in eastern Montana, particularly along the Missouri and Yellowstone.

This species of deer is quite easily distinguished by the flash of its white tail, often held nearly erect as it bounds off through the timber.

The high production of this species has made it possible to hunt either sex for the past several years throughout most of its range. This has raised the possibility of success considerably; however, the female deer should not be underestimated in her ability to elude hunters. It has often been observed that the doe is even more crafty than the buck.



## MULE DEER

The mule deer in Montana is often erroneously called "Blacktail" but is not the same species as the Columbian Black Tail of the western coast.

The mule deer, characterized by its large ears, is by far the most abundant of the big game in this state. It is found from the brushy draws of eastern Montana prairies to timberline in the mountainous areas of the western portion.

As with the white-tail, the take of either sex seems only to stimulate the rate of increase. Fine trophy and near-trophy heads are common throughout the state. Ordinarily, hunters hoping to obtain one of these big fellows must put out considerable effort, and will have to pursue them in the more remote portions of the range.

It would be difficult to designate the best mule deer range in the state as excellent hunting is found from the Dakota border to the western boundary. This deer appears amazingly adaptable, using range extending from the bad lands type near Fort Peck on the Missouri River up through the mountain ranges to the scrubby growth near the tops of the highest peaks.

Local inquiry should put the hunter on the trail of a muley almost anywhere in the state.

## BEAR

Black bear and its color phases (brown and cinnamon) may be hunted in Montana from the spring through fall, according to the current year's regulations. The species is quite common and a number are bagged each year.





Dogs are not permitted in hunting bear and it is illegal to kill cubs or females with cubs at their side.

Bears are timber dwellers although an occasional wanderer will drift into the open areas and even into towns in search of food. The best areas to hunt are in the mountainous portions of western Montana and specific localities are mentioned under information on elk hunting.

## GRIZZLY BEAR

Known as the "white bear" to the Indians, the silver-tip or grizzly is called **Ursus horribilis** by the scientific gents.

Hunting of this species is restricted to regular fall seasons, except in areas where there is an early elk season. In such case the grizzly season coincides with that set for elk, but closes at an earlier date, usually mid-November.

Not many grizzly are killed because of their wary nature, but their big ham shaped tracks can be found over much of the state's wilderness area.

The North, South and Middle Forks of the Flathead River and the Absaroka Wilderness north of Yellowstone Park are good grizzly hunting areas.

Grizzlies are a true wilderness species and completely shun the activities of man and civilization. They live and thrive in the remote back country. Only three states—Montana, Wyoming and Idaho—report any significant numbers of grizzlies. Census figures indicate that approximately 430 of these hump-backed bears are found in Montana, representing the largest population in the United States today.

## MOUNTAIN GOATS

Careful management has built up populations of mountain goats until permit hunting is now allowed in several areas of the state. Hunting is allowed each year by special permits in the Crazy Mountains of Park and Sweetgrass Counties, the Cabinet Range in Lincoln County, the Flint Creek area of Granite County, and the Pintlar Wilderness area of Powell, Deer Lodge and Granite Counties.

Mountain goat herds seem to reach a limit beyond which the population does not increase. Controlled hunting apparently does not harm the herds and seems to have a beneficial effect in improving goat numbers.

The Montana Fish and Game Department is transplanting additional mountain goats in suitable habitat to supplement hunting of this fine trophy animal.

Information on application for special permits may be found on page 4.

## MOUNTAIN SHEEP

Many hunters consider the Rocky Mountain Bighorn at the top of any list of trophy animals, and many fine specimens have been taken in Montana.

Permit hunting of this species was authorized in 1953, for the first time in several decades, and present populations of mountain sheep indicate that such controlled hunting will continue in various areas of the state, and one area is usually open on an unlimited basis.



A limited number of permits will be available in various areas of the state.

Hunting is limited to rams with at least a three-quarter horn curl.

As with mountain goats, the Montana Fish and Game Department is continuing its trapping and transplanting program for mountain sheep in suitable areas.

## MOOSE

This majestic animal, largest of the deer family, has been a challenge to big game hunters all over the world.

Each year permits are available in several areas of Montana for bull moose, and moose of either sex in some localities. Most of the moose population is found in southwestern Montana in Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Sweetgrass, Park, Stillwater and Carbon Counties.

Other areas where moose are hunted include the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area in the eastern portion of Flathead County and three areas in Lincoln and northern Flathead County.

(Information on applications for mountain sheep and moose may be found on page 4.)



## ANTELOPE

The prairie pronghorn of eastern Montana has made an astonishing comeback in the past two decades and affords excellent hunting along with deer from the Dakota border to the eastern foothills of the Continental Divide.

Properly prepared, antelope meat is a rare delicacy, and for the trophy-minded, many fine heads are to be found in Montana.



Because of its productivity (twin antelope are common), permits to hunt this species have been increased from the 750 issued in 1943 for the first authorized hunting in more than 40 years to the thousands of permits which are now issued.

The big antelope areas where permits are allocated every year include Carter, Powder River, Custer, Golden Valley, Garfield and Rosebud Counties. Smaller areas and smaller lots of permits are issued in other areas. Twenty dollar non-resident permits are available only in the event permits are available after the general drawings in August.

(Information on applications for antelope may be found on page 4.)

## *Heads And Horns*

In the past, Montana has produced several record trophy heads ranking among the top ten in the world.

Hunters can save their big game animal heads by carefully cutting along the back of the neck bone and around the collar and skinning off the hide as illustrated in the diagram. The head should be taken to a taxidermist as soon as possible after the kill for best cleaning and mounting results.

If the hunter desires only the antlers or horns of his animal, he should be sure to leave enough of the skull attached to the horns to provide a good base.

The Montana Fish and Game Department is interested in obtaining records of heads or horns of unusual size each year offers certificates of award for the largest heads in each class of game animal.

## *Care Of Game Meat*

Remember that the best tasting game meat comes from an animal that has not been running too much and which has been killed with a clean shot. Avoid dragging the meat even short distances.

Dress the carcass immediately after the kill for animal heat and bacteria can spoil meat in a few hours or seriously affect the flavor. Open the stomach cavity by a careful cut starting at the base of the tail and extending to the breast bone. Then open the neck and remove the windpipe to prevent souring.

Do not cut the intestines or other viscera. Montana law requires hunters to retain evidence of sex in the dressing process.

Wipe the cleaned body cavity with a cloth and cool the carcass thoroughly. Skin and quarter the meat as soon as possible or if this is not possible, hang the animal in an elevated position to allow the air to circulate freely over the entire body.

Big game should hang about ten days at 35° to 40° F. before cutting it up into standard meat cuts for storage.



## *Good Luck Hunter!!*

We've done all we can, including rubbing our pet rabbit foot on this paper, to get you started on a Montana big game hunt.

If your gun is sighted in, if one of those four-legged critters crosses your path and if you don't get buck fever, there'll be liver and onions sizzling in the pan.

Please be careful—and don't shoot until you're sure!

Watch your matches, cigarettes and campfire — the game depends on the food and cover of that forest you hunt.

If you get confused, just remember to take it easy. People don't stay lost very long, and even in Montana the streams run downhill. If you walk far enough you should arrive at Portland or New Orleans via the Columbia or the Missouri-Mississippi.

But most of all, relax and enjoy the mental, physical and spiritual well-being that comes from your time spent in the woods.







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